

## Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 IGA-02 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 CIEP-03 DRC-01 /193 W

----- 067251

R 260535Z AUG 74 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4422

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, FAO, UNDP, EEC, BE, BY

SUBJ: GRB ALERTS BELGIUM AND EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND TO  
PROBABLE NEED FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT LAST WEEK GRB MINAG BIGAYIMPUNZI  
SENT LETTERS (COSIGNED BY FONMIN SIMBANANIYE) TO BELGIAN  
EMBASSY AND ACTING HEAD OF EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (FED)  
HERE INDICATING THAT, OWING TO CROP DAMAGE CAUSED BY UNSEASONAL  
RAINS, BURUNDI WILL REQUIRE OUTSIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE DURING  
PERIOD NOVEMBER 1974 - JANUARY 1975. DIRGEN INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION IN MOFA HAS INDICATED TO CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES  
REP THAT GRB WILL MAKE REQUEST TO CRS AFTER INTER-MINISTERIAL  
MEETING WHICH GRB OFFICIALS HOPE TO HOLD NEXT WEEK.

2. ALTHOUGH SPECIFIC QUANTITIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED, CEREALS,  
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FLOUR, AND OIL WERE THE COMMODITIES MENTIONED IN THE LETTER

AS BEING IN SHORT SUPPLY.

3. EMBASSY HAD EARLIER RECEIVED REPORTS FROM GRB SOURCES THAT 60 PERCENT OF MOST RECENT CROP HAD BEEN DESTROYED AND THAT SHORTAGES WERE LIKELY BEFORE NOVEMBER, BUT LOCAL FAO REP MADE LIGHT OF THESE FEARS. DURING RECENT VISIT OF FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL BOERMA, PROSPECT OF SHORT-TERM SCARCITIES WAS NOT RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH GRB REQUEST FOR STOCKPILING OF FOOD SUPPLIES; AND NO ACTION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN ON REQUEST, TO WHICH FAO REACTION WAS RATHER NEGATIVE.

4. SCATTERED ON GROUND REPORTS FROM PERSONS LIVING IN AREAS AFFECTED ALSO CONFIRM THAT FOOD SUPPLIES WILL RUN OUT BEFORE NEXT HARVEST. SO FAR THESE REPORTS COME PRIMARILY FROM AREA JUST WEST OF NILE-CONGO CREST, AND IT UNKNOWN TO WHAT EXTENT SIMILAR CONDITIONS EXIST ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, ONE STAPLE, BEANS, IS ALREADY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN IN BUJUMBURA AND MISSIONARY DOCTOR REPORTS INCREASED INCIDENCE OF KWASHIORKOR IN HIS AREA OF ACTIVITY, ABOUT 25 MILES SOUTH-SOUTHEAST OF BUJUMBURA.

5. LOCAL WORLD FOOD PROGRAM REP, UPON LEARNING OF

REQUEST, ASKED MINHEALTH WHETHER HE COULD SUPPLY ANY ESTIMATE OF BURUNDI'S EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS. MINHEALTH SAID HE COULD NOT DISCUSS SPECIFICS UNTIL AFTER INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING.

6. MEANWHILE, BELGIAN EMBASSY IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT DETAILED INFORMATION IN ORDER TO RESPOND INTELLIGENTLY TO MINAG'S REQUEST. BELGIANS WILL, IN ANY CASE, HAVE TO HAVE SOME POSITION, SINCE SUBJECT IS SURE TO ARISE AT SEPTEMBER 2-6 ANNUAL MEETING IN BRUSSELS OF BELGIAN-BURUNDI MIXED COMMISSION. WFP HAS APPROXIMATELY 750 TONS OF VARIED FOOD STOCKS ON HAND OR EN ROUTE, BUT THIS IS COMMITTED TO EXISTING PROGRAMS AND WILL BE SOMEHWAT RUN DOWN BY NOVEMBER UNLESS NEW ACTION IS TAKEN SOONER.

7. EMBASSY WILL BE WATCHING SITUATION CLOSELY AND WILL REPORT ADDITIONAL DETAILS AS AVAILABLE. IT IS STILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSIBLE, AS FAO AND WFP REPS SEEM INCLINED TO BELIEVE, THAT GRB IS OVERRACTING, ON BASIS OF INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION, TO SITUATION WHICH, WHILE UNPLEASANT, IS NOT A SERIOUS THREAT TO LIFE. EMBASSY IS LESS SANGUINE.  
MARK

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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